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LOUIS KRAFFT'S
IMPRESSIONS.

Occasionally our old friend and fel-
 low-townsmen, ex-Councilman Louis
 Krafft, sends us a letter from
 away Germany. It is generally a
 test against certain dispatches
 from Europe which are printed in
 the Gazette. We are not in Germany, and
 Mr. Krafft is; hence he is in a pos-
 ition to know where the truth is. He
 has perfect confidence in the im-
 mediate success of Germany, and ap-
 peals to the alleged superiority of
 Teuton military organization, as we
 as Americans have seen in the
 war more than a year. He thinks the
 allies will eventually make overture
 for peace.

Mr. Krafft makes one observation
 which may be taken as the actual
 truth. He says the common people
 want a short war. Since he wrote his
 letter, last November, the common
 people, as he terms the great mass of
 the German empire, have given a
 decided weight to their wishes. The
 riotous procedures in Berlin and
 other German cities last Thursday
 show this element desires to bring
 the conflict to a close at once. Accord-
 ing to dispatches, fifty thousand
 persons engaged in the tumult in
 front of the imperial palace in the
 German capital and the crown prince
 was shown disrespect.

The common people have the heart
 and mind to bear all the hardships
 and nobles get all the honor
 while thousands of their subjects
 reap the fruits of their blood.
 Of course the latter want brief
 hostilities.

The common people, regarded with
 unconcern throughout the world since
 empires have waxed and waned
 have ever wanted peace. The plebeian
 of ancient Rome, the vassals who
 fought for barons, the serfs and the
 villagers of old England have always
 been made the breastworks for mili-
 tary glory by those who sniffed at
 battle from afar through field glass.

Nearly nineteen hundred years ago
 the Great Exemplar raised his hand
 and said "Blessed are ye poor," and
 at the close of His discourses we are
 told "The common people heard him
 gladly."

There would be joy far greater than
 that incident to Christmas time
 were the sound to go out tonight in
 this bloody war was at an end. The in-
 mates of many a humble home in
 Germany would involuntarily mutter
 "Thank God!" As it continues this
 woe of souls under the al-
 tar cry, "How long O Lord, wilt
 thou not judge and avenge our blood
 upon them dwell upon the earth!"

STRONG DEMANDS
ON VIENNA.

Intimations in Washington dispatches
 to the effect that our relations
 with Austria-Hungary have reached a
 critical stage are fully justified by
 the publication today of the note pre-
 sented to the Government at Vienna
 setting forth our position in regard
 to the destruction of American lives
 in the illegal attack upon the Ancona.

The note is short, sharp and to the
 point and the conduct of the submarine
 commander who slaughtered defense-
 less non-combatants, men, women
 and children, in defiance of interna-
 tional law is condemned without
 mincing words. Austria-Hungary is
 informed that our attitude on sum-
 marine outrages has been fully set forth
 in correspondence with Germany; that
 her ally has acquiesced in that atti-
 tude, and that we expect the Govern-
 ment at Vienna to conform to it. As-
 suming that the Austrian submarine
 commander violated his instructions
 in committing so wanton an act, we
 call upon his government to denounce
 it as illegal and indefensible; to pun-
 ish the commander; and to pay suit-
 able indemnity for the injury to Amer-
 ican citizens.

As suggested by the Philadel-
 phia Record these are "strong de-
 mands" and they are coupled with the
 suggestion that we require an im-
 mediate answer. The President's pa-
 tience as well as that of the Ameri-
 can people, appears to have reached
 its limit. As there are no represen-
 tatives of this government now in a
 position to convey to the Austrian
 Government an intimation that we do
 not mean what we say, there is every
 reason to believe that the fact that
 the United States is thoroughly in
 earnest will be understood this time,
 not only in Vienna, but in Berlin,
 whence the Austro-Hungarian Gov-
 ernment gets advice, if not instruc-
 tions. The answer of the Vienna Gov-
 ernment ought to settle once and for
 all the status of submarine warfare
 and of our relations with the Teutonic
 Powers. What will Berlin tell Vienna
 to do?

WILSON AS
AN IDEALIST.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch in
 speaking of President Wilson's
 Columbus speech says:

When the present President of the
 United States took office, it was the
 practice of his critics to refer to him
 as a "naïf," with a sneer—as "the
 schoolmaster in politics." According
 to these wise men, he was "an imprac-
 tical visionary," fond of tilting at
 windmills and ignoring the solid real-
 ities of life. Now they have changed
 all that. The President, if any-
 one, is a practical man.

Colonel Roosevelt rails at him and
 attacks his policy, but because he
 would not plunge this country into
 war when Belgium was invaded. Others
 think he should have taken
 Mexico by the scruff of the neck and
 shaken that land of fever and revo-
 lution into good behavior. Profound
 truists of Teutonic descent are
 amazed that he refuses to heed what
 they say is the voice of humanity and
 to aid the manufacture and export
 of munitions of war, although the
 law of this nation and of all nations
 recognize the traffic as legitimate,
 and modern Germany has received
 larger profit from it than any other
 country in the world. Certain suffer-
 ing gentlemen in the shipping busi-
 ness nearly weep their heads off be-
 cause he is too practical to anoint
 their wounds with subsidies of some
 millions—or billions—a year.

The truth about the President's
 policy is that they were wrong in
 their original estimate of his charac-
 ter and are wrong again. He never
 was a visionary. He has ideals, it is
 true, but they are those expressed in
 the Declaration of Independence, the
 Constitution of the United States
 and the Virginia Bill of Rights. They
 are not in the least impractical.
 Though the bill of rights of some
 nations may be long deferred, they
 are rooted in the genius and tradi-
 tion of America. Woodrow Wilson is
 a man with George Washington that
 is, a man who is not a dreamer, so far
 as possible from the jealousies and
 ambitions of Europe. He has no fond-
 ness for a colonial empire pitched
 on to this republic, nor ambition to
 add to our present collection of sub-
 ject peoples.

IN MEMORIAM

At a called meeting of the Vestry
 of St. Paul's Church, Alexandria,
 Virginia, held December 6th, 1916,
 the following preamble and resolu-
 tions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty
 God to take from this world our ven-
 erable brother, J. Wallace Hooff, Sec-
 retary of this Church there-
 fore,

Resolved, that we deem it a duty
 to place on record our sense of the loss
 sustained by St. Paul's Church by
 the death of one who, for over sixty
 years, has been a communicant of
 his Church, and for many years was
 a faithful teacher in the Sunday
 school, Vestryman, and Registrar.

Resolved, that we thank our Heav-
 enly Father that for this long period
 our congregation and the community
 have enjoyed the example of a man
 whose walk in life was so consist-
 ent that no word of reproach could
 ever be uttered against him—an
 "elite, indeed, in whom was no
 taint."

Resolved, that we offer the family
 of the deceased our sincere sympathy,
 feeling ourselves afflicted with them
 in their bereavement; that we will
 strive to follow in the foot steps of
 our departed brother, as we shall
 ever treasure the memory of his
 virtues.

P. P. PHILLIPS, Rector.
 R. F. KNOX, Registrar.

BOY SCOUTS' CHRISTMAS

Will Distribute Baskets to Poor and
 Toys to Children

The Boy Scouts of Alexandria will
 have a Santa Claus this year who
 will distribute baskets of provisions
 and clothing to the needy of Alexan-
 dria and candy and toys to poor
 children. They have opened headquar-
 ters at the Westminster Building
 which will be open tomorrow even-
 ing from 7 to 10 o'clock to receive
 any donations which the people of
 Alexandria wish to send to help them
 in their good work.

U. S. NOTE TO AUSTRIA.

Alleged Ancona Was Sunk Before
 Passengers Were Given Time
 to Escape

The Secretary of State to Ambas-
 sador Penfield:
 Please deliver a note to the minis-
 ter of foreign affairs, textually as
 follows:

Reliable information obtained from
 American and other survivors who
 were passengers on the steamship
 Ancona shows that on November 1,
 a submarine flying the Austro-Hun-
 garian flag fired a solid shot toward
 the steamship; that thereupon the
 Ancona attempted to escape, but be-
 ing overhauled by the submarine she
 stopped; that after a brief period,
 and before the crew and passengers
 were able to take to the boats, the
 submarine fired a number of shells
 at the vessel and finally torpedoed
 and sunk her while there were yet
 many persons on board, and that by
 gunfire and foundering of the vessel
 a large number of persons lost their
 lives or were seriously injured, among
 whom were citizens of the United
 States.

The public statement of the Aus-
 tro-Hungarian admiralty has been
 brought to the attention of the gov-
 ernment of the United States and
 received careful consideration. This
 statement substantially confirms the
 principal declaration of the survi-
 vors, as it admits that the Ancona
 after being shelled was torpedoed,
 and sunk while persons were still on board.

The Austro-Hungarian govern-
 ment has been advised, through the
 correspondence which has passed be-
 tween the United States and Ger-
 many, of the attitude of the govern-
 ment of the United States as to the
 use of submarines in attacking ves-
 sels of commerce, and the acquies-
 cence of Germany in that attitude; yet
 with full knowledge on the part of
 the Austro-Hungarian government
 of the views of the government of
 the United States, as expressed in no
 uncertain terms to the ally of Aus-
 tria-Hungary, the commander of the
 submarine which attacked the An-
 cona failed to put in a place of safety
 the crew and passengers of the ves-
 sel which they purposed to destroy
 because, it is presumed, of the im-
 possibility of taking it into port as a
 prize of war.

The government of the United
 States considers that the commander
 violated the principles of interna-
 tional law and of humanity by shelling
 and torpedoing the Ancona before
 the persons on board had been put
 in a place of safety, or even given
 sufficient time to leave the vessel.
 The conduct of the commander can
 only be characterized as wanton
 slaughter of defenseless noncombat-
 ants, since at the time when the
 vessel was shelled and torpedoed she
 was not, it appears, resisting or at-
 tempting to escape, and no other re-
 son is sufficient to excuse such an at-
 tack, not even the possibility of res-
 cue.

The government of the United
 States is forced, therefore, to con-
 clude either that the commander of
 the submarine acted in violation of
 his instructions or that the imperial
 and royal government failed to issue
 instructions to the commanders of its
 submarines in accordance with the
 law of nations and the principles of
 humanity. The government of the
 United States is unwilling to believe
 the latter alternative and to credit
 the Austro-Hungarian government
 an intention to permit its submarines
 to destroy the lives of helpless men,
 women, and children. It prefers to
 believe that the commander of the
 submarine committed this outrage
 without authority and contrary to
 the general or special instructions
 which he had received.

As the good relations of the two
 countries must rest upon a com-
 mon regard for law and humanity,
 the government of the United States
 cannot be expected to do otherwise
 than to demand that the imperial
 and royal government denounce the
 sinking of the Ancona as an illegal
 and indefensible act, that the officer
 who perpetrated the deed be punished
 and that reparation be made for the
 payment of an indemnity to be made for the citi-
 zens of the United States who were
 killed or injured by the attack on the
 vessel.

The government of the United
 States expects that the Austro-Hun-
 garian government, appreciating the
 gravity of the case, will accede to its
 demand promptly, and it rests this
 expectation on the belief that the
 Austro-Hungarian government will
 not sanction or defend an act which
 is condemned by the world as in-
 humane and barbarous, which is ab-
 horrent to all civilized nations, and
 which has caused the death of in-
 nocent American citizens.

LANSING

Steamed oysters at JACOB BRILL'S
 1001 King Street.

NEWS OF THE DAY

Leopold de Rothschild celebrated
 his 70th birthday in London yester-
 day. He insists that the prophecy of
 Beaconsfield holds true, and that
 British money will win the present
 war. Rothschild has three sons in
 the British army.

Greece will not demobilize, but will
 withdraw all her troops from Saloni-
 ki except one division. The embargo
 on Greek shipping has not yet been
 raised, and all Greek grain ship-
 ments continue to be held back in the
 entente allies' ports.

A dispatch given out by the Chinese
 Legation in Washington last night
 seems to cast doubt on the report
 that Yuan Shih-kai, who has been
 President of the Chinese Republic
 since its foundation in 1913, has con-
 sented to accept the imperial crown.

A man and boy (John Roache, aged
 70, and Clinton A. Derrenberger, aged
 5 years) were killed in Baltimore yes-
 terday by automobiles. In both in-
 stances the deaths were declared by
 witnesses to have been accidental,
 neither of the cars having been going
 fast.

Forty thousand dollars was raised
 in twenty-five minutes yesterday af-
 ternoon at the Belasco Theater, Wash-
 ington. It will be used by the suffrag-
 ists of the Congressional Union to
 put the Susan B. Anthony amendmen-
 t through Congress. Pledges and cash
 fairly streamed to the platform.

Ernest Goeritz, 52 years of age
 for many years practically general
 manager of the Metropolitan Grand
 Opera Company, in New York com-
 mitted suicide Saturday in a hotel in
 Los Angeles. He had first taken cyan-
 ide and then shot himself in the head.

A cablegram received from Hon-
 olulu sets at rest the rumors that
 Lieut. Col. Bromwell, stationed there
 had been murdered by a Japanese
 spy. "Absolutely no foundation for
 the charge that Bromwell was mur-
 dered," says the cablegram. "Authen-
 tic sources are satisfied it was a case of
 suicide."

Miss Ella Beach, 22 years old, was
 found nearly nude in the woods near
 Westport, Baltimore county, at 5:30
 o'clock yesterday morning with her
 head battered, her eyes closed and
 swollen from heavy blows, and her
 body scratched and torn by bushes
 through which she had been dragged
 for a quarter of a mile.

Most of the members of the Re-
 publican National Committee have
 reached Washington for their meet-
 ing tomorrow to decide upon the
 time and place for holding the 191
 convention of the Republican party.
 Five cities want the convention—
 Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, San
 Francisco and Honolulu.

Dr. Edward Ryan, the famous Am-
 erican surgeon, who since the war
 has been in charge of the Serbian
 Hospital in Belgrade, is wounded and
 a prisoner of the Germans. Dr. Ryan
 said that when the Germans took
 Belgrade they hauled down the Am-
 erican flag over the Serbian Hospital
 and raised the German colors, remark-
 ing, "We don't want the American
 flag in Belgrade."

Germany has officially repudiated
 Franz Pintelon, the German citizen
 now under arrest in London, who was
 charged with having financed the pro-
 German plots and conspiracies in this
 country. The repudiation was made
 in the form of an official statement
 given out at the German Embassy in
 Washington last night by Count von
 Bernstorff, the German Ambassador
 acting on direct instructions from
 Berlin.

William Jennings Bryan, former
 secretary of state, in an order signed
 by Supreme Court Justice Whitaker
 in New York, was declared in default
 for failure to answer a summons to
 appear as a witness in the suit for
 alleged libel brought by Petros T.
 Tatanis against D. J. Vlasto and S.
 J. Vlasto. The court also issued an
 order requiring Mr. Bryan to show
 cause why he should not be adjudged
 in contempt of court. This was made
 returnable December 25.

In the defile of Demir Kapu, dur-
 ing the Anglo-French retreats, the
 Bulgarians suffered a crushing de-
 feat. By strategy the enemy was
 made to believe that the French were
 in retreat through the defile. They
 attempted to pursue the French and
 when the troops were well in the
 defile two French regiments, with a
 battery of machine-guns cleverly hid-
 den, suddenly opened a murderous
 fire. The Eleventh Bulgarian regiment
 was exterminated and the remainder
 of the Bulgarian force broke and fled.

VIRGINIA NEWS

Accompanied by snow at Norfolk
 and along the Atlantic coast, a north-
 east storm, has been raging since
 Saturday night. Reports from sea
 indicate that the weather is clearing
 and the wind is shifting to westward.

The body of Cadet Thurber Sweet,
 who died Friday night as the result
 of spinal paralysis at Lexington, has
 been sent to the home of the boy's
 parents in Chicago. It was said that
 his death was caused by hazing, but
 this is denied.

Charged with permitting visitors
 to the fort to take photographs of the
 battery over which he stood guard
 and accepting pay for the privilege,
 Private Anderson, a member of the
 sixty Ninth Company, Coast Artillery
 Corps, stationed at Fort Monroe, is
 in the guardhouse at that institution.

Mrs. Grace Hank Pattillo, wife of
 Mr. Nathan A. Pattillo, dean of Ran-
 dolph-Macon Woman's College, com-
 mitted suicide in her home on the
 college campus Saturday afternoon by
 drinking carbolic acid. She had for
 a long time been suffering with mel-
 ancholia, which followed a surgical
 operation.

Messages received in Winchester
 from Rock Enon Springs, in the west-
 ern section of Frederick county, state
 that disastrous forest fires that have
 been raging for several days in the
 Big North Mountain, in Frederick
 county and also in Hampshire coun-
 ty, W. Va., have been finally gotten
 under control.

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